

to a case, but, having accepted his employment, and entered upon the discharge of his duties, he is bound to devote to the patient his best skill and attention, and to abandon the case only under one of two conditions: First, where the contract is terminated by the employer, which termination may be made immediate; second, where it is terminated by the physician, which can only be done after due notice, and an ample opportunity afforded to secure the presence of other medical attendance."

It must be remembered that there is no distinction between a patient who pays and a patient who is receiving gratuitously the services of a physician; the obligation assumed by the physician is the same in either case and his duties to his patient are no less and no more in the one than in the other circumstance.

APPLICANTS.

Several of the component county medical societies have adopted the plan of regularly sending in the names of applicants, to the office of the State Society, and awaiting a report from our office before considering any action upon such applications. It is a very wise thing to do, as the JOURNAL has remarked on more than one occasion, and the wisdom of this course was well shown last month when one county society was enabled to keep out a man who had been a notorious abortionist and grafter in another county. It is a very simple matter to send in such names and in many instances, as in the one just mentioned, it will save a good deal of trouble in the long run. We have found it unfailing, as the years go by and the records of physicians grow in the office of the Society, that when once a note of something unprofessional or crooked is made against a name, the list of such notations will grow longer and longer as the years pass. If we note that a physician has been mixed up in a coroner's case of abortion, even if there is not sufficient evidence to hold him on a criminal charge, soon or late another and similar incident will be recorded in his connection, and it sometimes happens that we find on such cards, eventually, "sentenced to San Quentin for — years." The unlicensed fakers and Chinese specialists are not the worst quacks by any manner of means; nor the most dangerous.

JUNE MEETINGS.

The occurrence of many medical and allied society meetings during the middle and latter part of June will be more extensively noted in the next issue; they came so late in the month that not much could be done in the way of preparing material relating to them without holding back the JOURNAL too long. We did hold it up long enough to get in some notes in regard to the American Medical Association elections and matters of business, but that was about the best that could be done.

PHYSICIANS OF SAN FRANCISCO, PLEASE REGISTER!

The following letter received from the Secretary of the Board of Medical Examiners is self-explanatory and the JOURNAL is only too glad to publish the notice again; we have repeatedly, in the past, urged the physicians of San Francisco to register their licenses with the county clerk, as required by law!

"We are informed by an individual who is checking up the physicians in this county that less than fifty per cent. of those registered with the County Clerk prior to the fire have re-registered in accordance with the Medical Practice Act.

"It occurs to me that it would be advisable to insert in the JOURNAL a notice calling the attention of the profession to this feature of the law.

"We are well aware that you have endeavored both through telephonic communication, personal correspondence and through the columns of the JOURNAL to impress upon the profession the necessity of registering in the county in which each individual may be practicing.

"Respectfully yours,

"C. B. PINKHAM, Secretary."

FEDERAL CONVICTIONS.

The sentences awarded those who have up to date been convicted in the federal court for misuse of the mail in quack medical work, are as follows: Homer C. Edwards, M.D., one year in Alameda county jail; G. M. Freeman, M.D., one year in Alameda county jail and \$1,000 fine; C. M. Scott, M.D., \$400; C. A. Baxter, \$400; E. J. Rice, M.D., \$750; J. T. Burns, \$500; Donald Harris, \$400; H. J. Pierce, six months in the Alameda county jail. These men were all connected with different advertising institutions. It must be said for the credit of the Board of Examiners that "Dr. Morel," the Jordan Museum, the Globe Medical Dispensary and the Raymond Remedy Co., were all closed up before the federal authorities arrested and indicted these men.

ILLEGAL PRACTITIONERS.

The Board of Medical Examiners is very desirous of discouraging the illegal practice of any form or method of the healing art, and to that end desires that our members individually or collectively as represented in the various county medical societies, will send in the names of any newcomers or of those concerning whom there is any doubt of being properly licensed. Communications on the subject may be sent to the Secretary of the State Society or to the Secretary of the Board of Examiners, Dr. C. B. Pinkham, Butler Building, San Francisco.